Agreements with 96 countries, under which traffic rights have been granted to foreign airlines for operating international services to/ from India. Actual operations are decided by foreign airlines according to their commercial judgement and comparative yields on different routes. No special restrictions as such have been placed on operation of foreign airlines who have traffic rights from their country and wants to operate to India. While some airlines have recently curtailed/withdrawn their services, some other airlines have also commenced their services to India. Presently a total of 50 foreign airlines are operating scheduled international services to/ from India.

IA services to Hong Kong and Saudi Arabia

3084. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines are contemplating to start its services to Hong Kong and Saudi Arabia;

(b) whether Government have sanctioned these flights; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN):(a) to (c) Indian Airlines is not designated to operate services to Saudi Arabia. Although Indian Airlines has been designated for operating services to Hong Kong, they are yet to start operations. Air India is already operating to Hongkong.

Training to Pilots

3085. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to send pilots to England for training;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have entered into any negotiations in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, some Scheduled Operators have been submitting proposals from time to time to Directorate General of Civil Aviation (Dte. GCA) for training of their pilots at Simulator Training Institutes in United Kingdom. These training institutes and training programmes are approved by the Directorate GCA. In the past, Jet Airways and Air India Limited have used the training facilities for training of their pilots. Sahara Airlines is using these simulators at present.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Security hazard at Mumbai Airport

3086. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether slums around the Mumbai Airport are a great security hazard;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to clear at least fifty feet area outside the boundary wall of the slums;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Security of Mumbai Airport could be breached from slums surrounding the Airport; and

(d) the steps taken to make Mumbai Airport safe?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (d) With the assistance of the State Govt. of Maharashtra, Slum Rehabilitation Authority (SRA) and Shivshahi Punarvasan Prakalp Limited (SPPL), a survey was conducted of the slum settlements, with a view to take appropriate measures to meet any possible consequent threat to security.